TOMB OF DRACULA
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THE TOMB OF DRACULA™
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A VAMPIRE GOES MAD!
YOU MUST READ-- RAMPAGE OF BLOOD

Hidden in the *shadows* where legend and reality merge, there are *tales* of a being who has lived *more than five hundred years*. They say he is a creature born not on earth, but in the deepest bowels of *Hell* itself, they say he thrives upon the *blood* of innocents, that he is the king of darkness...the prince of evil and that even the *bravest* man quakes in fear at the merest mention of his name...

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

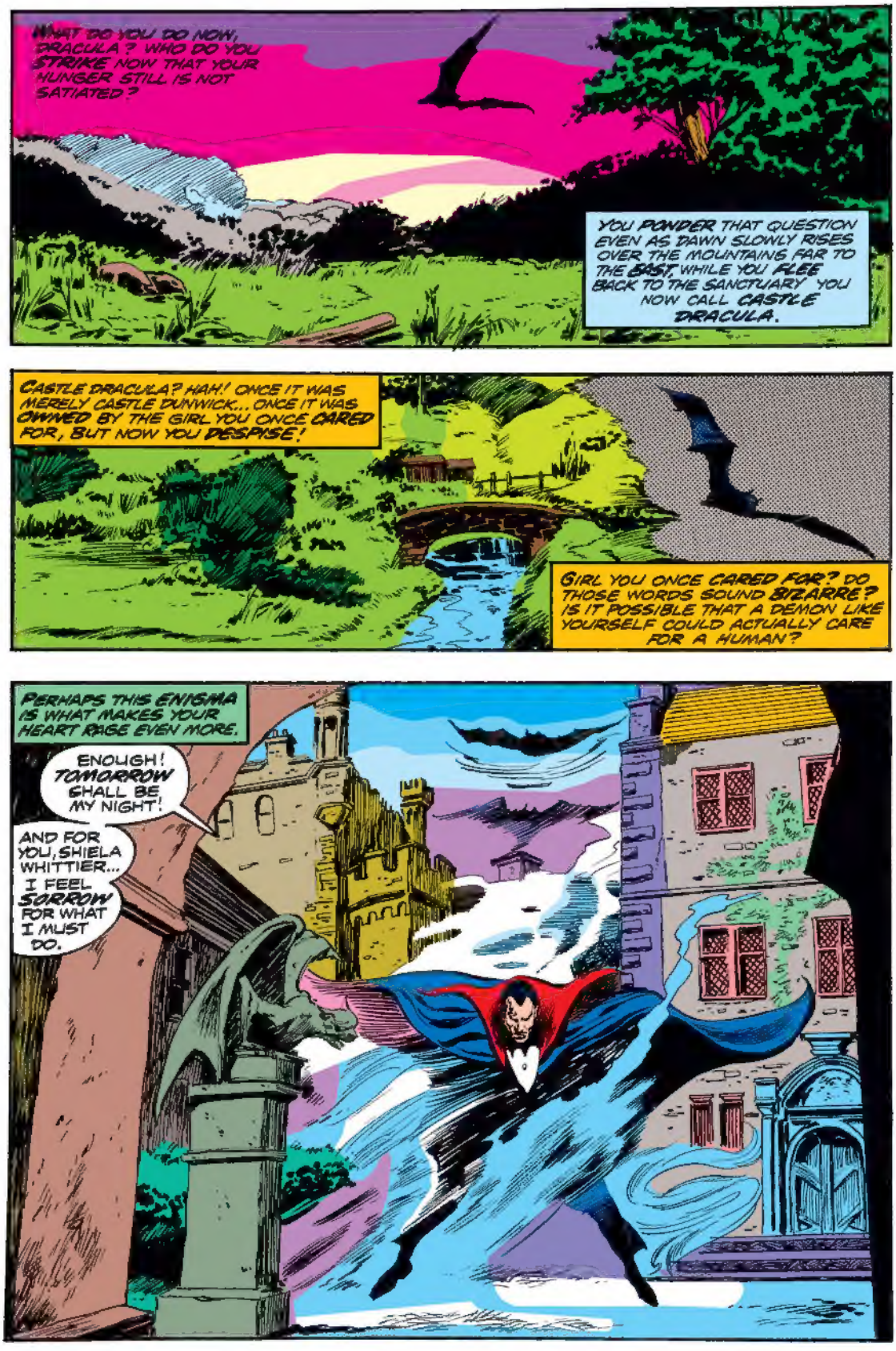
TOMB OF DRACULA!

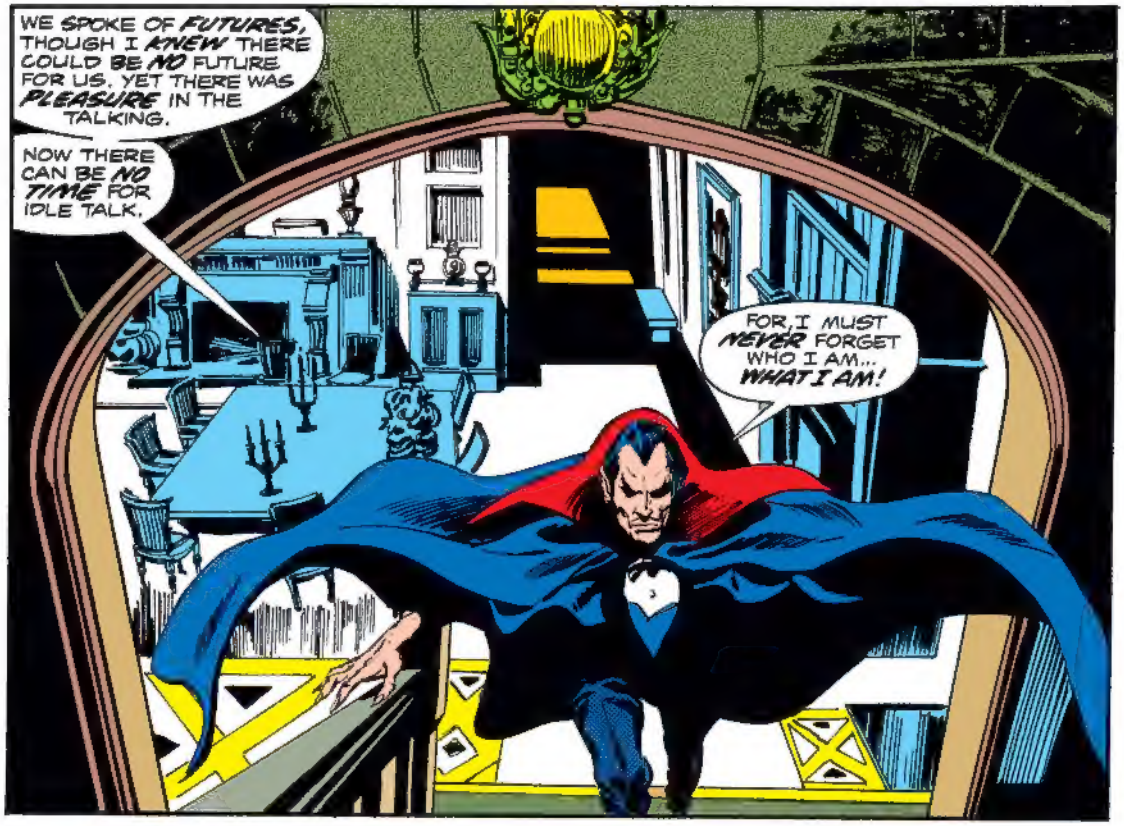
MARV WOLFMAN / WRITER | GENE COLAN & TOM PALMER / ARTISTS | JOHN COSTANZA / letterer | TOM PALMER / colorist | ROY THOMAS / EDITOR

YOUR NAME IS DRACULA, AND THERE IS HATRED COURSING THROUGH YOUR HEART THIS NIGHT! HATRED FOR THE THOUSAND WRONGS DONE TO YOU, HATRED FOR THE SHE-HUMAN WHO SPURNED YOU, HATRED FOR THE WHIMPERING WHELP WHO STOLE YOUR WOMAN-SLAVE FROM YOU, AND ABOVE ALL, HATRED FOR YOURSELF. IT IS THIS HATRED YOU DESPISE THE MOST, AND SO, TO BANISH IT, YOU BEGIN YOUR MINDLESS RAMPAGE OF BLOOD!
YOUR NAME IS BEVERLY GABLE, AND YOU ARE RETURNING HOME AFTER AN EVENING OF BABY-SITTING. FOR THREE AND ONE-HALF HOURS YOU WATCHED THE FLICKERING IMAGES PLAYING ON A TELEVISION SET, OBLIVIOUS TO THE DESPERATE CRIES OF THE CHILD IN THE OTHER ROOM... CRIES WHICH SUBSIDED ONCE YOUNG PETER HANCOCK THE THIRD GREW TIRED WAITING FOR YOU AND FELL ASLEEP. WHEN MR. AND MRS. HANCOCK RETURNED HOME FROM THEIR PARTY AND PAID YOU FOR YOUR SERVICES, THEY ASKED IF YOU WISHED A RIDE TO YOUR HOME. YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THEIR OFFER.
"VENGEANCE IS MINE!" SAYETH THE VAMPIRE!

BECAUSE, IF YOU HAD, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE TO DIE TONIGHT.
THERE IS NO USE IN RUNNING, GIRL--
--YOU ARE TO BE MY SWEET VICTIM THIS NIGHT--YOU AND NO OTHER!
THERE WAS A CRY. I'M SURE I 'EARD IT, MATES.
LOOK! IN THE ALLEY-WAY! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THERE!
MORE HUMANS! I'M SICK OF ALL YOU MORONIC VEGETABLES!
YOU LIE! YOU CHEAT! YOU SWEAR YOUR UNDYING LOVE!
BUT THERE IS ONLY A MOCKING HATRED IN YOUR HEARTS!
LOR'! WHAT'S HE SCREAMIN' ABOUT?
BUT NO MORE SHALL YOU MOCK ME WITH YOUR ENDLESS LIES, SCUM!
THAT I SWEAR-- NO MORE!
GOD! MY FACE! YOU'RE CRUSHING MY FACE!

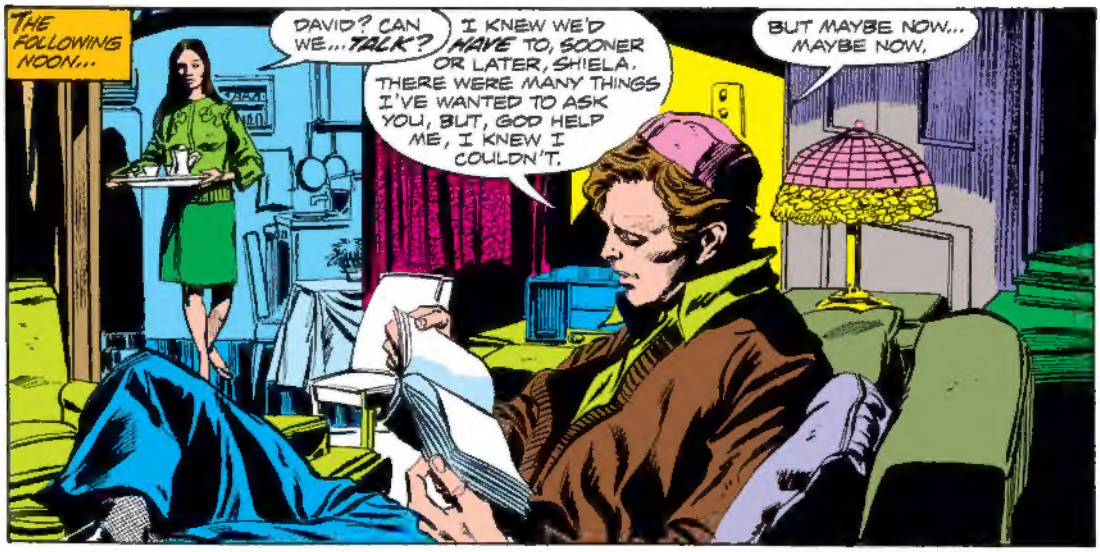
CRUSHING YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, FOOL!
BEFORE I AM DONE WITH YOU, YOUR FLESH AND BONE SHALL BE PULP OOZING FROM MY FINGERS.
STOP IT! PLEASE, YOU'RE KILLING ME! KILLING ME!
WHAT IS SO WRONG WITH THAT, SCUM? IS YOUR LIFE WORTH ANY-THING TO ANY BUT YOURSELF?
BUT IT IS NOT YOU WHO IS TO BE MY VICTIM THIS NIGHT. RATHER, IT IS THE FEMALE--!
ANOTHER OF HER TREACHEROUS, CONNIVING SEX! SHE IS MY PREY!
IT IS NO GOOD. THIS GIRL'S BLOOD SATISFIES ME NOT.
NO! ONLY THE BLOOD OF THAT CURSED FEMALE TRAITOR CAN SOOTHE THE ANGER GROWING IN ME NOW.
HEY, YOU, MAN--HALT!
WHO--?
I SAID HALT, MAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE, BUT I'M PLACING YOU UNDER ARREST!
ARREST? ARE YOU INSANE, FOOL?
CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY THAT I HAVE NOT THE TIME TO REND YOU LIMB FROM LIMB.
ARREST? HAHAHAHA


WHAT DO YOU DO NOW, DRACULA? WHO DO YOU STRIKE NOW THAT YOUR HUNGER STILL IS NOT SATIATED?
YOU PONDER THAT QUESTION EVEN AS DAWN SLOWLY RISES OVER THE MOUNTAINS FAR TO THE EAST, WHILE YOU FLEE BACK TO THE SANCTUARY YOU NOW CALL CASTLE DRACULA.
CASTLE DRACULA? HAH! ONCE IT WAS MERELY CASTLE DUNWICK... ONCE IT WAS OWNED BY THE GIRL YOU ONCE CARED FOR, BUT NOW YOU DESPISE!
GIRL YOU ONCE CARED FOR? DO THOSE WORDS SOUND BIZARRE? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A DEMON LIKE YOURSELF COULD ACTUALLY CARE FOR A HUMAN?
PERHAPS THIS ENIGMA IS WHAT MAKES YOUR HEART RAGE EVEN MORE.
ENOUGH! TOMORROW SHALL BE MY NIGHT!
AND FOR YOU, SHIELA WHITTIER... I FEEL SORROW FOR WHAT I MUST DO.

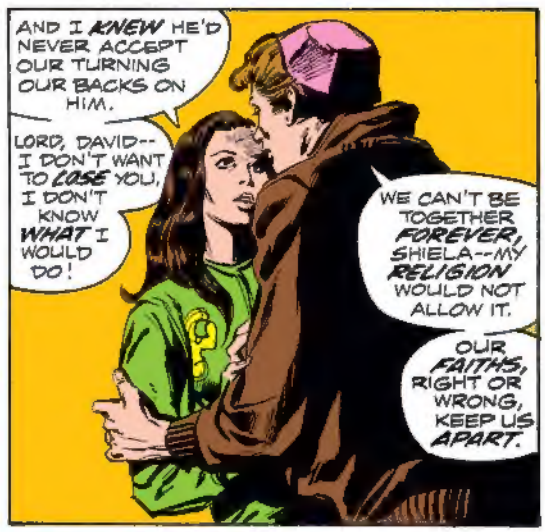

WE SPOKE OF FUTURES, THOUGH I KNEW THERE COULD BE NO FUTURE FOR US. YET THERE WAS PLEASURE IN THE TALKING.
NOW THERE CAN BE NO TIME FOR IDLE TALK.
FOR, I MUST NEVER FORGET WHO I AM... WHAT I AM!

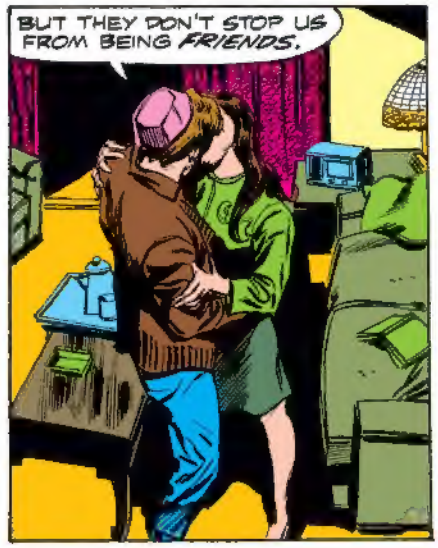
I AM UNDEAD. YOU ARE ALIVE. THERE WAS NEVER ANY HOPES OR FUTURES FOR US.
NOW YOUR ACTIONS HAVE LEFT ME ONLY ONE RECOURSE--

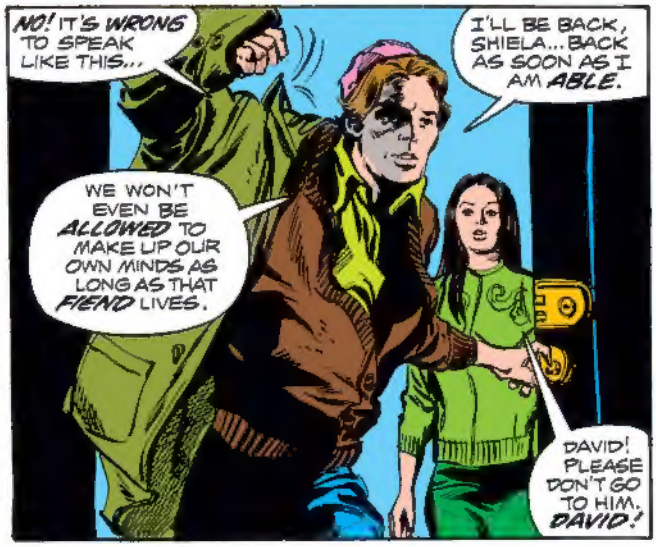
--AND THOUGH I DREAD ITS OUTCOME, THERE IS NOTHING WHICH EITHER OF US CAN DO TO PREVENT IT.
IN THIS WE ARE MERE PUPPETS PLAYING OUT OUR FINAL ACT... THE FINAL CURTAIN ON LIFE... AND ON DEATH!

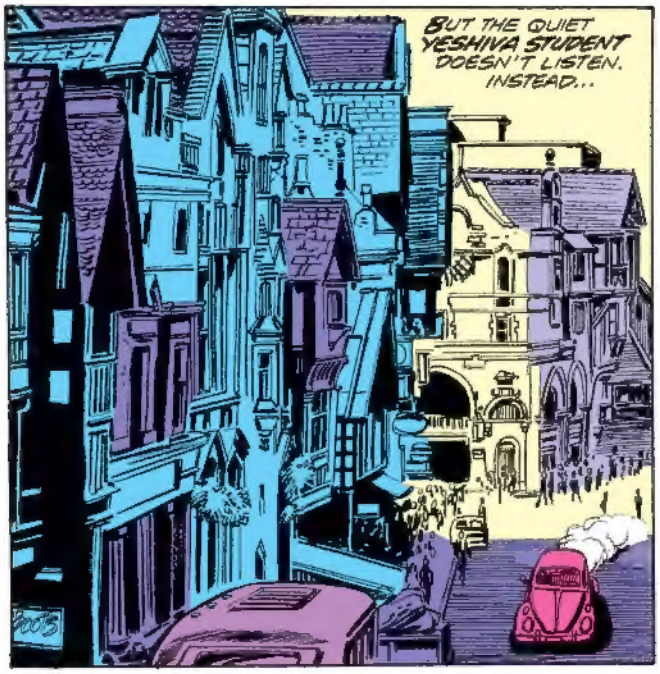

THE FOLLOWING NOON...
DAVID? CAN WE...TALK?
I KNEW WE'D HAVE TO, SOONER OR LATER, SHIELA. THERE WERE MANY THINGS I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU, BUT, GOD HELP ME, I KNEW I COULDN'T.
BUT MAYBE NOW... MAYBE NOW.

I'M WORRIED, DAVID... ABOUT THE TWO OF US... ABOUT DRACULA. HE WAS FURIOUS WHEN WE WALKED OFF TOGETHER.*
HE WOULDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT KILLING YOU, DAVID. HE'S A PROUD MAN...A VAIN MAN.
* AS SHOWN LAST ISSUE.--ROY.

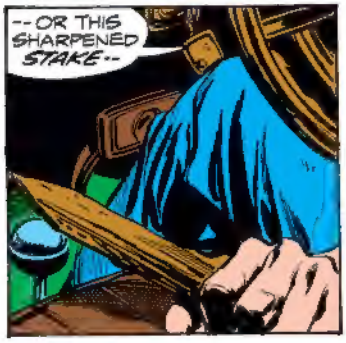

AND I KNEW HE'D NEVER ACCEPT OUR TURNING OUR BACKS ON HIM.
LORD, DAVID-- I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO!
WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER FOREVER, SHIELA--MY RELIGION WOULD NOT ALLOW IT.
OUR FAITHS, RIGHT OR WRONG, KEEP US APART.

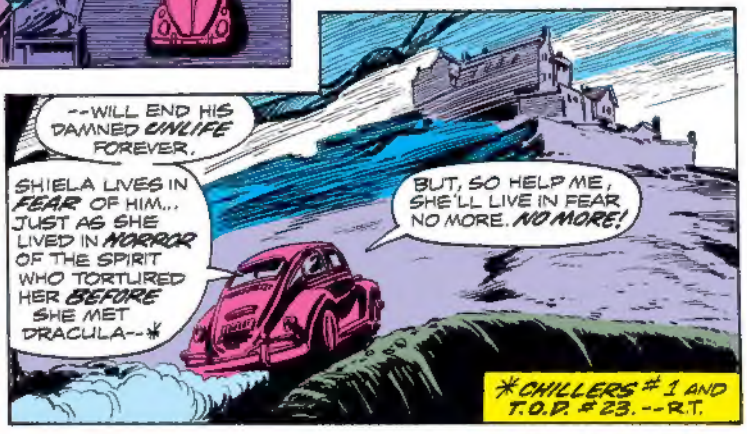

BUT THEY DON'T STOP US FROM BEING FRIENDS.


NO! IT'S WRONG TO SPEAK LIKE THIS...
I'LL BE BACK, SHIELA... BACK AS SOON AS I AM ABLE.
WE WON'T EVEN BE ALLOWED TO MAKE UP OUR OWN MINDS AS LONG AS THAT FIEND LIVES.
DAVID! PLEASE DON'T GO TO HIM. DAVID!

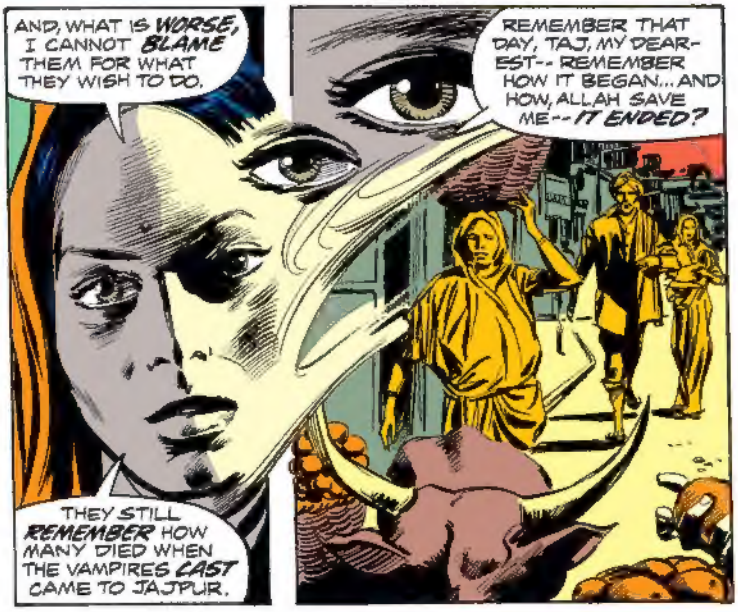

BUT THE QUIET YESHIVA STUDENT DOESN'T LISTEN. INSTEAD...

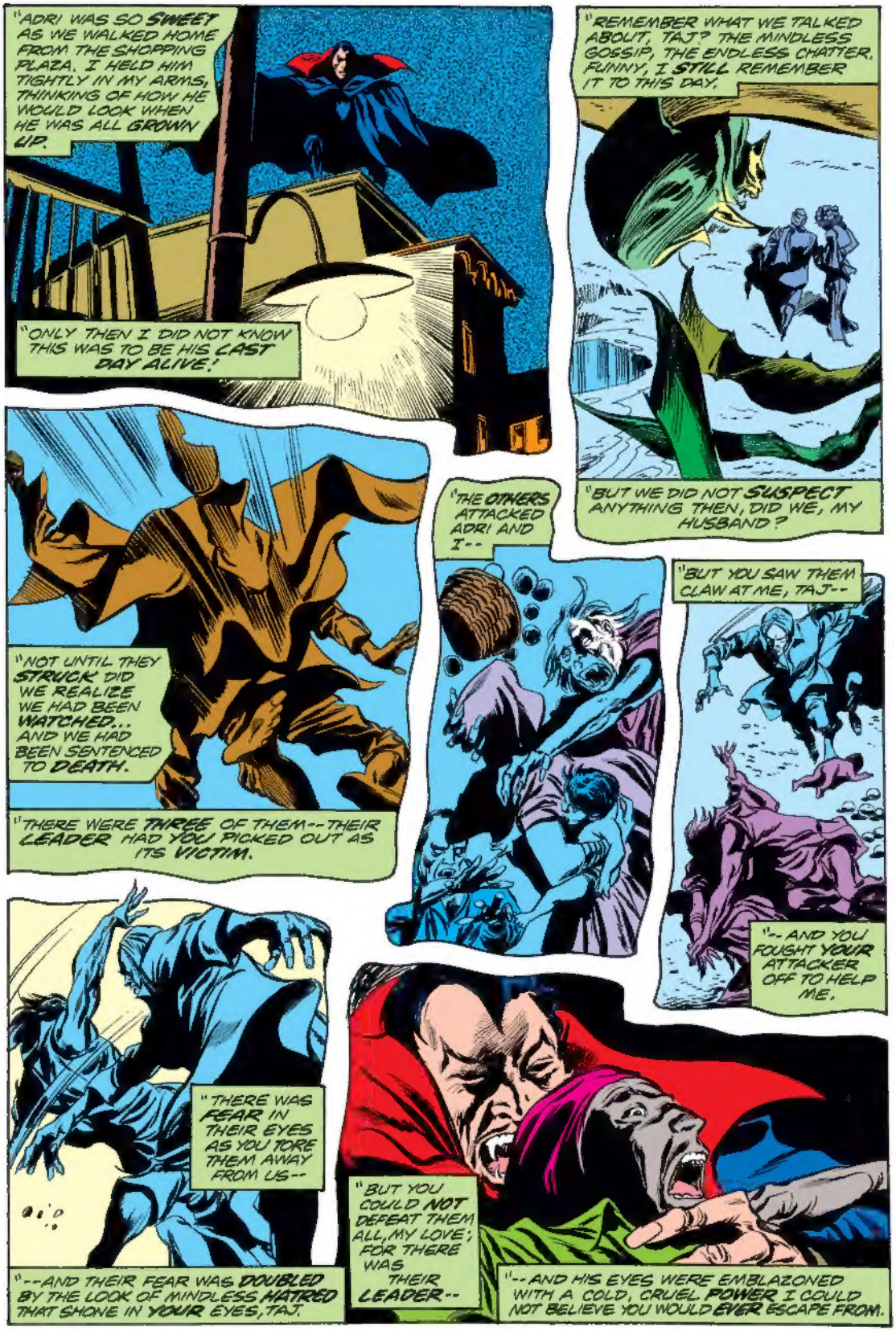
THERE CAN BE NOTHING BETWEEN US UNTIL THAT DEMON IS DEAD...
...AND IF GOD IS WITH ME, EITHER MY STAR OF DAVID--


--OR THIS SHARPENED STAKE--


--WILL END HIS DAMNED UNLIFE FOREVER.
SHIELA LIVES IN FEAR OF HIM... JUST AS SHE LIVED IN HORROR OF THE SPIRIT WHO TORTURED HER BEFORE SHE MET DRACULA--*
BUT, SO HELP ME, SHE'LL LIVE IN FEAR NO MORE. NO MORE!
*CHILLERS # 1 AND T.O.D. # 23. --R.T.

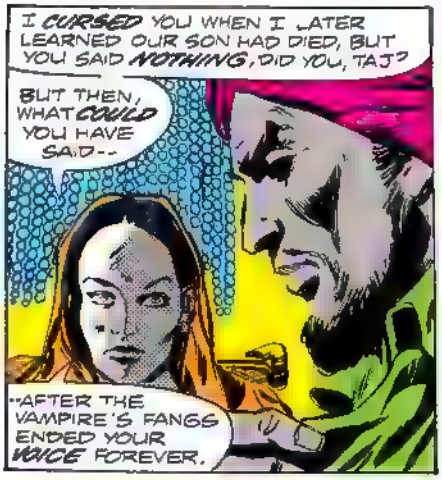
JAJPUR, INDIA:
YOU CRY FOR YOUR SON, MY HUSBAND TAJ--
--BUT TEARS WILL NOT SAVE HIS LIFE TOMORROW, WHEN THE VILLAGERS COME TO SLAY ADRI.


AND, WHAT IS WORSE, I CANNOT BLAME THEM FOR WHAT THEY WISH TO DO.
THEY STILL REMEMBER HOW MANY DIED WHEN THE VAMPIRES LAST CAME TO JAJPUR.
REMEMBER THAT DAY, TAJ, MY DEAREST-- REMEMBER HOW IT BEGAN... AND HOW, ALLAH SAVE ME--IT ENDED?


"ADRI WAS SO SWEET AS WE WALKED HOME FROM THE SHOPPING PLAZA. I HELD HIM TIGHTLY IN MY ARMS, THINKING OF HOW HE WOULD LOOK WHEN HE WAS ALL GROWN UP.
"ONLY THEN I DID NOT KNOW THIS WAS TO BE HIS LAST DAY ALIVE.'
"REMEMBER WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT, TAJ? THE MINDLESS GOSSIP, THE ENDLESS CHATTER. FUNNY, I STILL REMEMBER IT TO THIS DAY.
"BUT WE DID NOT SUSPECT ANYTHING THEN, DID WE, MY HUSBAND?
"NOT UNTIL THEY STRUCK DID WE REALIZE WE HAD BEEN WATCHED... AND WE HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.
"THERE WERE THREE OF THEM--THEIR LEADER HAD YOU PICKED OUT AS ITS VICTIM.
"THE OTHERS ATTACKED ADRI AND I--
"BUT YOU SAW THEM CLAW AT ME, TAJ--
"-- AND YOU FOUGHT YOUR ATTACKER OFF TO HELP ME.
"THERE WAS FEAR IN THEIR EYES AS YOU TORE THEM AWAY FROM US--
"--AND THEIR FEAR WAS DOUBLED BY THE LOOK OF MINDLESS HATRED THAT SHONE IN YOUR EYES, TAJ.
"BUT YOU COULD NOT DEFEAT THEM ALL, MY LOVE; FOR THERE WAS THEIR LEADER--
"-- AND HIS EYES WERE EMBLAZONED WITH A COLD, CRUEL POWER I COULD NOT BELIEVE YOU WOULD EVER ESCAPE FROM.

"I SAW THE HORROR AS THE BEAST'S LONG FINGERS GOUGED INTO YOUR THROAT-- BUT I TURNED AWAY FROM YOU, TAJ-- AND RAN...
"...I FLED... I LEFT YOU AND APRI TO FEND FOR YOURSELVES, AND I HATED MYSELF. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY I SAID THOSE THINGS TO YOU.
"BUT I WAS FRIGHTENED ...SO VERY FRIGHTENED THAT I FAILED TO EVEN SEE ANOTHER OF THOSE CREATURES SWOOP DOWN BEHIND ME...
...CRASHING A HEAVY WOODEN WAGON ON ITS SIDE--
CRASH
"--CRUSHING MY LEGS BENEATH ITS MASSIVE WEIGHT.
"I SCREAMED AS MY LEGS BURST UNDER THE IMPACT!
"HELPLESS, I WATCHED THE THING DRAW CLOSER, AS ITS SALIVATING MOUTH PULLED BACK IN LUSTFUL ANTICIPATION.
"I CLOSED MY EYES, WAITING FOR IT TO STRIKE...
THUNK
"...BUT IT NEVER DID.
"FOR, EVEN AS IT DESCENDED, IT WAS SLAIN!
"SHRIEKING IN ENDLESS PAIN, THE BEAST COLLAPSED TO THE GROUND--
"--WITH AN ARROW LODGED IN ITS HEART.
"--BUT YOU SAW IT ALL, TAJ--YOU SAW THE THING DIE--
"--YOU SAW THE BEAST TURN TO ASH, AND THE WIND CARRY AWAY ITS FINAL REMAINS.
"YOU TOLD ME HOW THEIR LEADER CALLOUSLY LAUGHED AT HIS OWN MAN'S DEATH--
"--WHILE YOU WATCHED IN UNCOMPREHENDING TERROR.
"I SAW NONE OF THAT--MY PAIN HAD ALREADY TAKEN ITS TOLL AND I WAS MERCIFULLY UNCONSCIOUS...

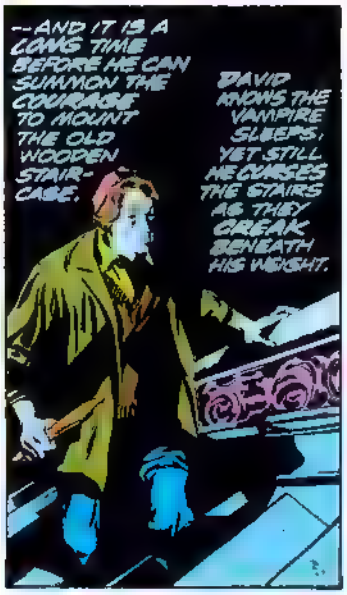
"THEN YOU SAW ONE OF THE MONSTERS GRAB ADRI, AND ITS TONGUE FLICKERED HUNGRILY AT OUR CHILD.
"YOU SAID YOU TRIED TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THEIR LEADER'S GRASP--
--BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE --FOR THE CREATURE DRANK YOUR SON'S BLOOD BEFORE YOUR HELPLESS EYES...
"...AND THEN IT DIED-- AS A WOODEN ARROW DUG DEEP INTO ITS HEART.
"I KNOW YOU SAY YOU RAN TO OUR SON, BUT THE BLOOD WAS ALREADY SPURTING ENDLESSLY FROM HIS NECK. I KNOW THERE WAS NOTHING YOU COULD DO, YET STILL I CURSED YOU LATER AS YOU RECOUNTED WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
"...AND EVEN AS YOU WRITHED MADDENINGLY TO FREE YOURSELF, THE VAMPIRE RIPPED AT YOUR THROAT--
" YOU RAN... AND YOU WERE TRIPPED...
"-- UNTIL IT, TOO, WAS STOPPED."
YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT THAT POOR MAN'S NECK, DRACULA--
--MY NEXT ARROW WON'T HIT YOUR SHOULDER-- IT WILL SLAY YOU!
VAN HELSING?
I HAD HEARD YOU TRACED ME HERE TO INDIA--
--BUT I DID NOT REALIZE YOU WERE SO CLOSE.
THUS, FAREWELL FOR NOW, MY WOULD-BE HUNTRESS. THIS "CAT-AND-MOUSE" GAME SHALL CONTINUE SOME OTHER TIME.
HA HA HA HA
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER THIS ALL, MY HUSBAND?
TAJ NODS. HOW COULD HE EVER FORGET?

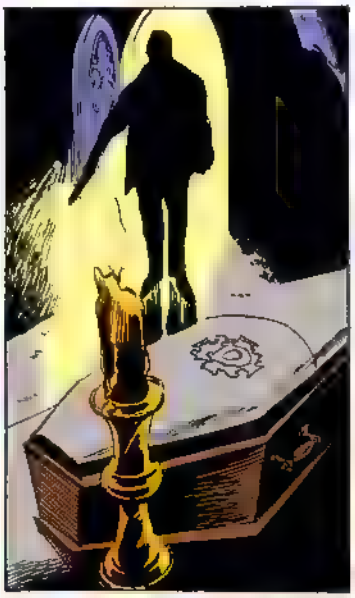

I CURSED YOU WHEN I LATER LEARNED OUR SON HAD DIED, BUT YOU SAID NOTHING, DID YOU, TAJ?
BUT THEN, WHAT COULD YOU HAVE SAID--
--AFTER THE VAMPIRE'S FANGS ENDED YOUR VOICE FOREVER.

OH TAJ

WE WERE BOTH FOOLS, MY HUSBAND, I DROVE YOU AWAY--
--AND YOU DESPISED ME.
BUT NOW. NOW YOU ARE HERE--

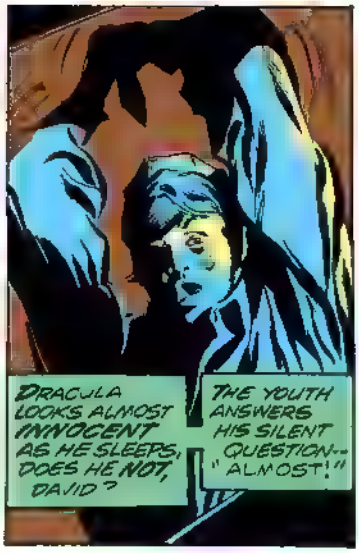
"--AND PLEASE... NEVER-- NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN"
DAVID ESHCOL STANDS UNCOMFORTABLY IN THE SHADOWS OF CASTLE DRACULA--

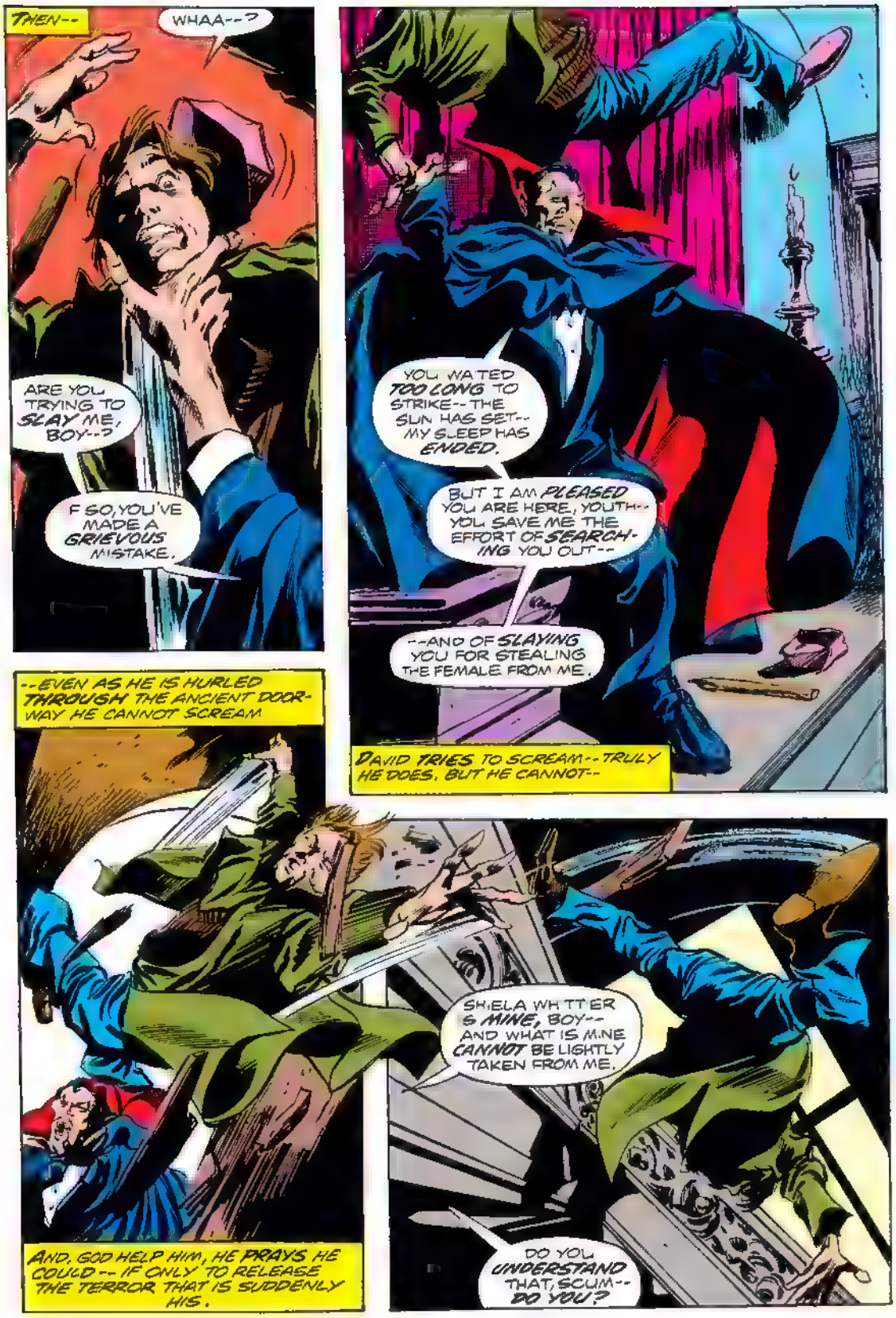

--AND IT IS A LONG TIME BEFORE HE CAN SUMMON THE COURAGE TO MOUNT THE OLD WOODEN STAIR-CASE.
DAVID KNOWS THE VAMPIRE SLEEPS. YET STILL HE CURSES THE STAIRS AS THEY CREAK BENEATH HIS WEIGHT.



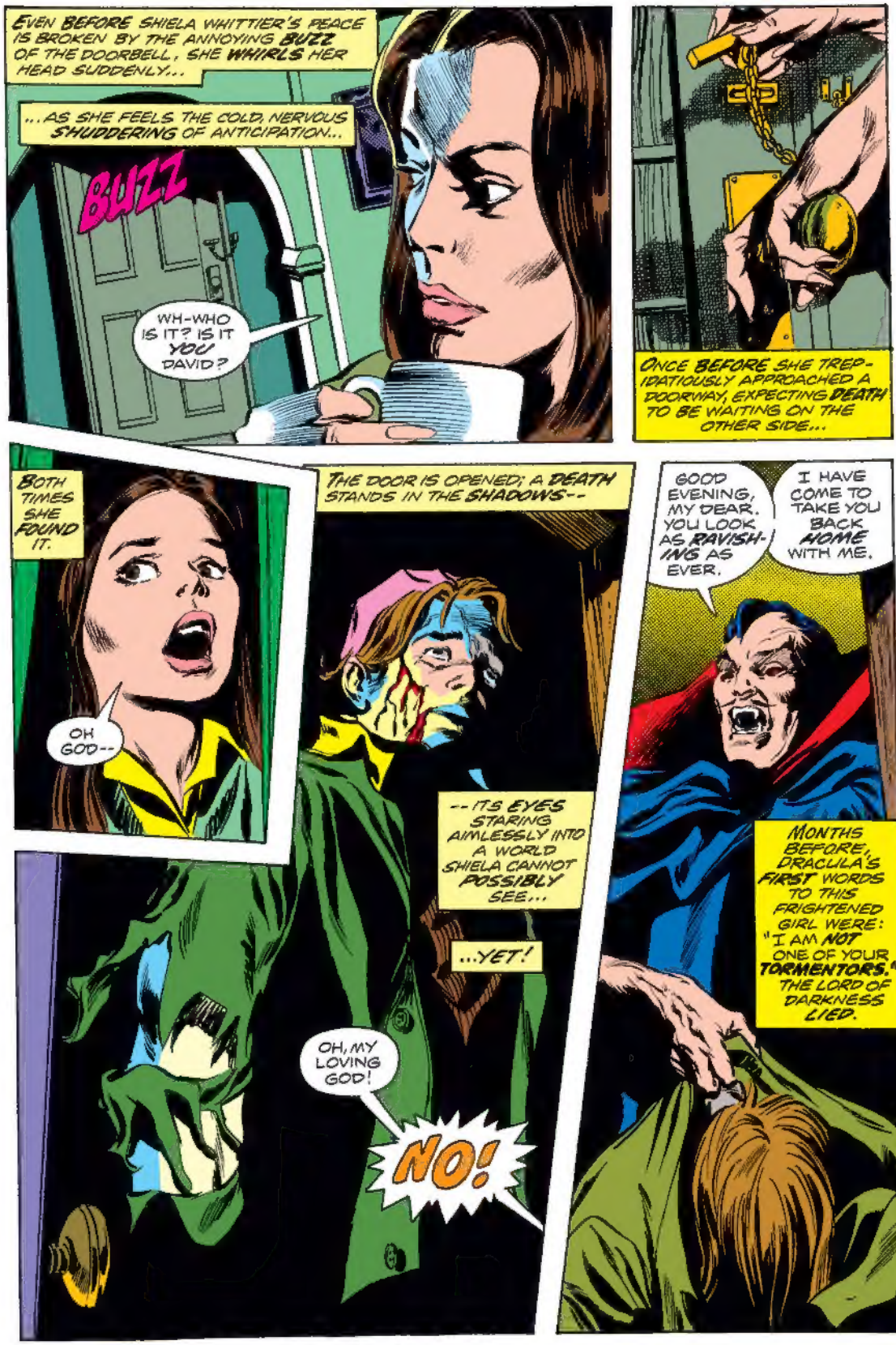
FOR A FULL FIFTEEN MINUTES DAVID STARES AT THE SOLEMN COFFIN RESTING QUIETLY IN THE COB-WEBBED ROOM...
...BEFORE HE DECIDES TO ACT.

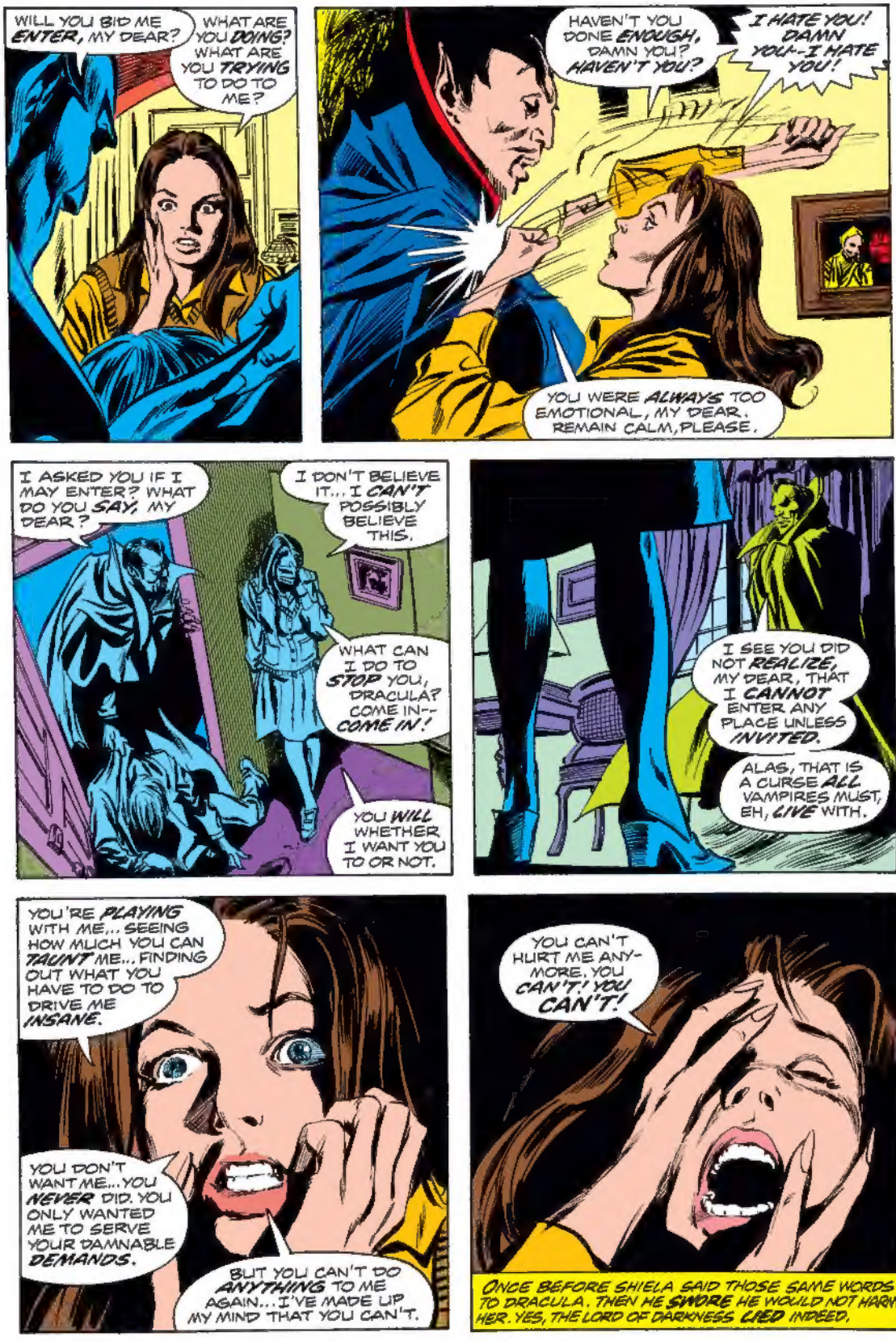
THE COFFIN LID OPENS EASILY--
--AND THE YOUTH SHUDDERS AS HE STARES AT THE REPOSING FORM WITHIN.


DRACULA LOOKS ALMOST INNOCENT AS HE SLEEPS, DOES HE NOT, DAVID?
THE YOUTH ANSWERS HIS SILENT QUESTION-- "ALMOST!"


THEN--
WHAA--?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SLAY ME, BOY--?
IF SO, YOU'VE MADE A GRIEVOUS MISTAKE.
YOU WAITED TOO LONG TO STRIKE--THE SUN HAS SET--MY SLEEP HAS ENDED.
BUT I AM PLEASED YOU ARE HERE, YOUTH--YOU SAVE ME THE EFFORT OF SEARCHING YOU OUT--
--AND OF SLAYING YOU FOR STEALING THE FEMALE FROM ME.
DAVID TRIES TO SCREAM--TRULY HE DOES. BUT HE CANNOT--
--EVEN AS HE IS HURLED THROUGH THE ANCIENT DOORWAY HE CANNOT SCREAM
AND, GOD HELP HIM, HE PRAYS HE COULD--IF ONLY TO RELEASE THE TERROR THAT IS SUDDENLY HIS.
SHEILA WHITTIER IS MINE, BOY--AND WHAT IS MINE CANNOT BE LIGHTLY TAKEN FROM ME.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, SCUM--DO YOU?

PERHAPS IT IS FEAR WHICH CONSUMES HIM, BUT DAVID'S HAND DARTS OUT--
--AND HIS TREMBLING FINGERS CATCH THE CORNER OF THE AGING WOODEN BANISTER--
--AND THEY HOLD... THEY HOLD FOR DEAR LIFE.
DAVID PULLS HIMSELF TO SAFETY AND THEN RUNS AS IF HELL ITSELF WAS CHASING HIM...
HAHA
HAHAHA
AND IT IS-- HELL IS CHASING HIM TO CLAIM HIS SOUL!
FOR, WAS NOT DAVID TAUGHT THAT "LIKE THE ROARING OF A LION THE FURY OF A KING; WHOEVER PROVOKES HIS ANGER WRONGS HIS OWN LIFE"?
IF THAT IS TRUE WITH GOD, CAN IT BE ANY LESS TRUE WITH THE DEVIL?
THE YOUTH RUNS, THOUGH HIS FATHER HAD TAUGHT HIM NOT TO RUN FROM EVIL, BUT TO FACE IT--TO IGNORE IT.
HAHAHAHA
THE EYES OF GOD ARE EVERYWHERE: OBSERVING THE EVIL AND THE GOOD." DAVID WAS TOLD THIS.
GOD DOES NOT LEAVE THE VIRTUOUS MAN HUNGRY, BUT HE THWARTS THE GREED OF THE WICKED," DAVID WAS TAUGHT
AND THOUGH IT MAY BE TRUE THAT GOD DOES HONOR THE VIRTUOUS... PERHAPS HE DOES DESTROY THE WICKED...
...TONIGHT HE DOES NOT.
AND AT LAST, DAVID SCREAMS


EVEN BEFORE SHIELA WHITTIER'S PEACE IS BROKEN BY THE ANNOYING BUZZ OF THE DOORBELL, SHE WHIRLS HER HEAD SUDDENLY...
...AS SHE FEELS THE COLD, NERVOUS SHUDDERING OF ANTICIPATION...
BUZZZ
WH-WHO IS IT? IS IT YOU DAVID?
ONCE BEFORE SHE TREPIDATIOUSLY APPROACHED A DOORWAY, EXPECTING DEATH TO BE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE...
BOTH TIMES SHE FOUND IT.
OH GOD--
THE DOOR IS OPENED; A DEATH STANDS IN THE SHADOWS--
--ITS EYES STARING AIMLESSLY INTO A WORLD SHIELA CANNOT POSSIBLY SEE...
...YET!
OH, MY LOVING GOD!
NO!
GOOD EVENING, MY DEAR. YOU LOOK AS RAVISHING AS EVER.
I HAVE COME TO TAKE YOU BACK HOME WITH ME.
MONTHS BEFORE, DRACULA'S FIRST WORDS TO THIS FRIGHTENED GIRL WERE: "I AM NOT ONE OF YOUR TORMENTORS." THE LORD OF DARKNESS LIED.


WILL YOU BID ME ENTER, MY DEAR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO TO ME?
HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH, DAMN YOU? HAVEN'T YOU?
I HATE YOU! DAMN YOU--I HATE YOU!
YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO EMOTIONAL, MY DEAR. REMAIN CALM, PLEASE.
I ASKED YOU IF I MAY ENTER? WHAT DO YOU SAY, MY DEAR?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT... I CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE THIS.
WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP YOU, DRACULA? COME IN-- COME IN!
YOU WILL WHETHER I WANT YOU TO OR NOT.
I SEE YOU DID NOT REALIZE, MY DEAR, THAT I CANNOT ENTER ANY PLACE UNLESS INVITED.
ALAS, THAT IS A CURSE ALL VAMPIRES MUST, EH, LIVE WITH.
YOU'RE PLAYING WITH ME... SEEING HOW MUCH YOU CAN TAUNT ME... FINDING OUT WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO TO DRIVE ME INSANE.
YOU DON'T WANT ME... YOU NEVER DID. YOU ONLY WANTED ME TO SERVE YOUR DAMNABLE DEMANDS.
BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME AGAIN... I'VE MADE UP MY MIND THAT YOU CAN'T.
YOU CAN'T HURT ME ANY-MORE, YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN'T!
ONCE BEFORE SHIELA SAID THOSE SAME WORDS TO DRACULA. THEN HE SWORE HE WOULD NOT HARM HER. YES, THE LORD OF DARKNESS LIED INDEED.

I PLAYED NO GAMES WITH YOU, GIRL. I WAS MERELY PROTECTING WHAT IS MINE.
I DON'T BELONG TO YOU! YOU CAN'T OWN ANOTHER PERSON.
BUT YOU NEVER LISTEN. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE EVEN CAPABLE OF LISTENING ANY MORE.
YOU'RE TOO FAR LOST IN YOUR OWN MADNESS TO SEE ANYTHING CLEARLY, AREN'T YOU?
SILENCE, WOMAN--
--I SAID QUIET, WENCH!
DRACULA IS A LORD! HE IS ABOVE ALL!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, WOMAN? DO YOU?
ALL I UNDERSTAND IS THAT YOU'RE INSANE! THE MAN I LOVED FOR WHATEVER REASONS I LOVED HIM IS A RAGING MANIAC!
YOU HAVE NO HEART! YOU HAVE NO SOUL!
YOU'RE A DEMON! A DAMNABLE LECHEROUS DEMIGOD!
SHOW ME WHAT KIND OF MAN YOU ARE, DRACULA. BEAT ME! BEAT ME FOR MY HATING YOU! BEAT ME FOR MY ONCE LOVING YOU!
I...CAN... NOT...BEAT... YOU.
I... CARE...
YOU CARE ONLY FOR YOURSELF! I WAS JUST A CONVENIENCE.
YOU ARE WRONG, SHIELA, PERHAPS WE BOTH--
GET AWAY FROM ME, DRACULA! IF I WAS EVER YOURS BEFORE--
--I WON'T BE ANYMORE! NEVER ANY MORE!
SUDDENLY...
SHIELA-- NO!

SHIELA!
NO!
NO!
I DIDN'T MEAN--
BUT THE DEMON'S WORDS ARE DROWNED OUT BY THE SUDDEN SIRENS BELOW...
ANYONE SEE WHA' 'APPENED?
WAS SHE PUSHED, MATE?
OR DID SHE JUMP?
ONLY THE LOR' KNOWS THAT ANSWER, GUV'NOR --ONLY THE LOR'.

NEXT

A DEADLY TURNABOUT FOR DRACULA...

"HOW MANY TIMES CAN A VAMPIRE DIE?"

and DRACULA'S JOURNAL.